

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

As stated in the Office Action, a Restriction Requirement was placed on the pending claims. Applicants provisionally elected to prosecute the invention of Group I, corresponding to claims 1-23. Affirmation of the provisional election is hereby made. Thus, claims 1-16 and 18-23, including independent claims 1 and 18, are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, for instance, is directed to a composite vapor barrier for use between one or more spaces defined by the structural elements of a building. The composite vapor barrier comprises a first facing layer formed from a material that is generally impermeable to water vapor, wherein at least one surface of the first facing layer is applied with an adhesive coating, and a scrim thermally bonded to the first facing layer. As a result, the composite vapor barrier does not substantially rupture when a bag of sand having a weight of approximately 400 pounds and a diameter of approximately 30 inches is dropped onto the vapor barrier from a distance of about 42 inches above an upper surface thereof.

In the Office Action, independent claims 1 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,094,883 to Atkins in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,540,971 to Daurer, et al. Atkins describes a barrier that includes first and second layers of vinyl and metallized polyester with fiberglass scrim or mesh bonded therebetween (e.g., Lamtech Model VRP-5503). However, as correctly noted by the Examiner, Atkins fails to disclose various aspects of the present claims.